GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2317
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2003
INTERNET EXCHANGES
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

(a): whether there is a proposal to set up Internet exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of exchanges initially planned, State/UT-wise;

(d) the cost likely to be incurred thereon during the first year; and

(e) the likely drop in the user charges for the public?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): Government in association with the Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI) has facilitated the setting up of Internet Exchange Points in the country. They are co-located at the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) premises in four locations viz Delhi (Noida in Uttar Pradesh), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Kolkata (West Bengal). Exchanges at Delhi (Noida) and Mumbai have become operational.

(d): The cost of setting up of Internet Exchanges covers network equipment such as switches, routers, computers, monitoring software etc., civil and electrical infrastructural components apart from manpower and other operational expenditure. The cost incurred so far in the first year for setting up of these exchanges is Rs.94.90 lakhs.

(e): As a result of setting up exchanges, there will be an efficient routing of the internet traffic within the country which will lead to the saving in the international bandwidth. The likely drop in the user charges will be proportionate to the percentage of traffic routed within the country through the exchange and the competitive market forces.